

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The current term of the office of United States Magistrate Judge William H. Askey is due to expire on June 20, 2003. The United States District Court is required by law to establish a panel of citizens to consider the reappointment of the magistrate judge to a new four year term.

The duties of the magistrate judge position as prescribed by 28 U.S.C. §636 and Local Rules of Court 72 et seq. are: (1) To exercise all the powers and duties conferred or imposed upon United States Commissioners by law of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure; (2) To administer oaths and affirmations, impose conditions of release under 18 U.S.C. §3146, and take acknowledgments, affidavits, and depositions; (3) To try persons accused of misdemeanors committed within this district in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §3401, order presentence investigation reports and sentence such persons; (4) To conduct removal proceedings and issue warrants of removal in accordance with Fed.R.Cr.P.40; (5) To conduct extradition proceedings, in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §3184; (6) To appoint attorneys under the court's Criminal Justice Act Plan; (7) To review applications by prisoners for post-trial and other relief, make such orders as are necessary to obtain appropriate information which may be of assistance in determining the merits of any complaint, submit reports and recommendations to the district judge having jurisdiction over the case; (8) To act as a special master when designated in accordance with Local Rule 72.7; (9) To receive indictments returned by grand juries; (10) To conduct arraignments to the extent of taking a not guilty plea or noting a defendant's intention to plead guilty or nolo contendere; and (11) Conduct trials and the disposition of civil cases on consent of the parties.

This public notice is posted for the public's commentary in the clerk's office in Scranton, Harrisburg, and Williamsport or may be viewed on the court's Internet web site at [www.pamd.uscourts.gov](http://www.pamd.uscourts.gov).

Comments from members of the bar and the public are invited as to whether the incumbent magistrate judge should be recommended by the panel for reappointment by the court and should be directed to:

Merit Selection Panel  
c/o Clerk, U.S. District Court  
William J. Nealon Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse  
P.O. Box 1148  
Scranton, PA 18501-1148

Comments must be received no later than **May 16, 2003**.